

LENScience Senior Biology Seminar Series Teacher Update Number 10 – 26th August 2010

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Seminar 6: What's going on?

Last week's seminar proved to be a very interesting one and prompted a quite different style of discussion on the seminar chat. We hope that you're having similar conversations with your students in your post-seminar discussions in school. An important part of the LENSscience programmes is research into the learning that is occurring. One area of interest for our research is into the types of questions that the students are asking. Look out for further information on this later this year.

We were pleased with the number of searching questions that were asked by the students at the end of the seminar. Thanks to those teachers who are actively supporting questioning from their group.

Upcoming LENSscience Events

Many of you will be aware that since 2007, LENSscience has run extremely popular teacher PD days for Auckland teachers. In response to requests to make these available nationwide, this year we are broadcasting the PD. Also rather than have the PD as one full day, we are breaking it up into a series of smaller events and running them after school.

We had a very successful PD session on Nutrigenomics back in Term 1. The next PD event for teachers is next month on Thursday 23rd September. The context is Chemicals in our Food, looking at the effect of chemicals in our environment on our health. This has the potential to be a very interesting and topical context for teaching in Years 7-10 with links to chemistry, environmental science, puberty and nutrition. For more information see our website: http://lens.auckland.ac.nz/index.php/Chemicals_in_our_food

We will be following this teacher PD with a workshops for Year 7&8 and Year 9&10 students in Term 4 on the same topic. This will also be broadcast to schools around New Zealand. The date for the workshops is Thursday November 18th.

Also in Term 4 will be another teacher PD event and a student workshop on Diabetes and Obesity. This supports a module of work for Year 11 students called Science and Society: Diabetes - An Issue for My Community, that has been prepared by the LENSscience team. The student workshop is aimed at Year 10 students. More information will follow later this term.

Next Seminar

Date: Thursday 16th September

Topic: Rethinking Polynesian Origins: Human Settlement of the Pacific

Presenters: Dr Lisa Matisoo-Smith, Michal Denny

